
The Michigan Autism Council



AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Capital View Building

Friday, February 27, 2015

11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-profit Organization serving those with ASD
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Human Services
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University, State Universities
Scott Gilman	Network 180, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Cathy Kirby	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
George Mellos	Hawthorne Center, Michigan Department of Community Health
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	ASD Community (Parent)
Jane Turner	Michigan State University, Medical Centers/ Health Care Providers
COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED	ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION
Anthony Ianni	Autism Alliance of Michigan, ASD Community (Self-advocate)
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
MDCH STAFF PRESENT	MDCH ORGANIZATION
Linda Fletcher	Children's Special Health Care Services & Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Lisa Grost	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Administration
Karla Ruest	Legislative Liaison
Lynda Zeller	Deputy Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration
GUESTS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION
None	

ROLL CALL

A Roll Call of the Council Members, MDCH staff, and guests was completed.

CALL TO ORDER

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Diane Heinzelman at 11:30 A.M. A quorum was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the December minutes. Wayne Fuqua made a **MOTION** to approve the December minutes. Stacie Rulison **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

MDCH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Karla Ruest reported the Governor issued an executive order to keep the budget balanced in February 2015. This included moving the \$3M allocated to EMU, MSU and WMU to be drawn from the Autism Reimbursement fund and not the general fund. The 2016 budget process will be challenging with many competing priorities; however, they are on target to finalize the 2016 budget in June 2015. The Governor also issued an executive order to merge the departments of community health and human services. Nick Lyon has been named director over the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This merger is expected to be finalized in April 2015. Karla will be the lead on legislative affairs and anticipates 500+ bills to manage in 2015. Karla and Lisa Grost met with Senator Warren regarding licensure of board certified behavior analysts. Senator Warren plans to have a stakeholder meeting before introducing the licensure bill to address any concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STANDING REPORTS

Michigan Department of Community Health – George Mellos

George updated members on the Children's Behavioral Action Team and how it will focus on successful transition of children to Hawthorne and back into their community. It is scheduled to begin in March 2015.

Non-profit Representative – Colleen Allen

Colleen reported on Autism Alliance of Michigan's parent conference in April and launching the Autism Navigator. Anthony Ianni will begin a position with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights on March 2, 2015.

University Representative – Wayne Fuqua

Wayne reported on the autism training videos developed for board certified behavior analysts available at <http://wmich.edu/autism/resources> free of charge due to MDCH funding. He also reported the Michigan Autism Conference agenda is almost finalized.

Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services – Cathy Kirby

Cathy discussed the Autism Coverage Fund Reimbursement Summary spreadsheet. This included 21 companies submitting claims; approximately \$10M left in the fund after the \$3M amendment is finalized; \$4.5M has been submitted in 2015; average of almost \$1M a month being submitted the last few months; anticipate the fund being at a \$0 balance by January 2016.

State-funded Initiatives – Amy Matthews

Amy reported the Statewide Autism Resources and Training Project will be training 20 percent of school districts in 2016 and continuing to have monthly collaborative meetings.

Department of Human Services – Mary Chaliman

Mary discussed the challenge in turnover of health liaison officers at the local level. She is working on the DHS autism position to collaborate with other departments and AAoM.

ASD Community – Stacie Rulison

Stacie reported presenting on behalf of the Autism Council and Adult Services Committee to the Michigan Statewide Independent Living Council. They are working on their state plan and requested a member attend their meeting. The one pager was provided at the meeting.

AUTISM COUNCIL 2015 PRIORITIES

Diane Heinzelman reported the Autism Council met and discussed 2015 priorities. This meeting was facilitated by Frances Paris. Recommendations from this meeting will be sent to the members with the minutes next week.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M. The next Autism Council meeting will be on *April 24, 2015* in the Lewis Cass 5th floor Large Conference Room.